

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/892,457**  
Amendment filed October 20, 2005  
Reply to OA dated August 17, 2005

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, and 4-9 are pending in this application. An amendment is proposed canceling claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amending claims 7 and 8. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 7 and 8 will be pending. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment. It is believed that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **August 17, 2005**.

In the amendment, claim 7 is amended to be in independent form, incorporating the limitation of claim 1, from which it had depended. Claim 8 is amended to depend from claim 7, and incorporates the limitation of claim 2, from which it had depended. Applicant submits that the scopes of claims 7 and 8 are unchanged by this amendment.

**Claims 1-2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper (U.S. 2,869,194) in view of Meyer (U.S. 4,264,760).** (Office Action item no. 3)

The rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-2 and 4-6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/892,457  
Amendment filed October 20, 2005  
Reply to OA dated August 17, 2005

**Claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Office Action item no. 6)**

The objection is overcome by the amendments to the claims. Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 7 has been amended to be independent, and claim 8 depends from claim 7. Applicant submits that the scopes of claims 7 and 8 are unchanged by the amendment.

Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

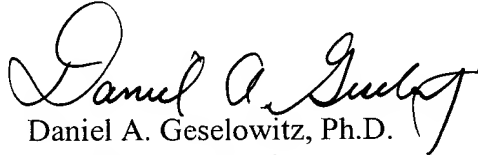
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/892,457**  
Amendment filed October 20, 2005  
Reply to OA dated August 17, 2005

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,  
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Daniel A. Geselowitz, Ph.D.

Agent for Applicants

Reg. No. 42,573

DAG/lrj  
Atty. Docket No. **010825**  
Suite 1000  
1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 659-2930



**23850**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE